

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 4, 2009

Synopsis

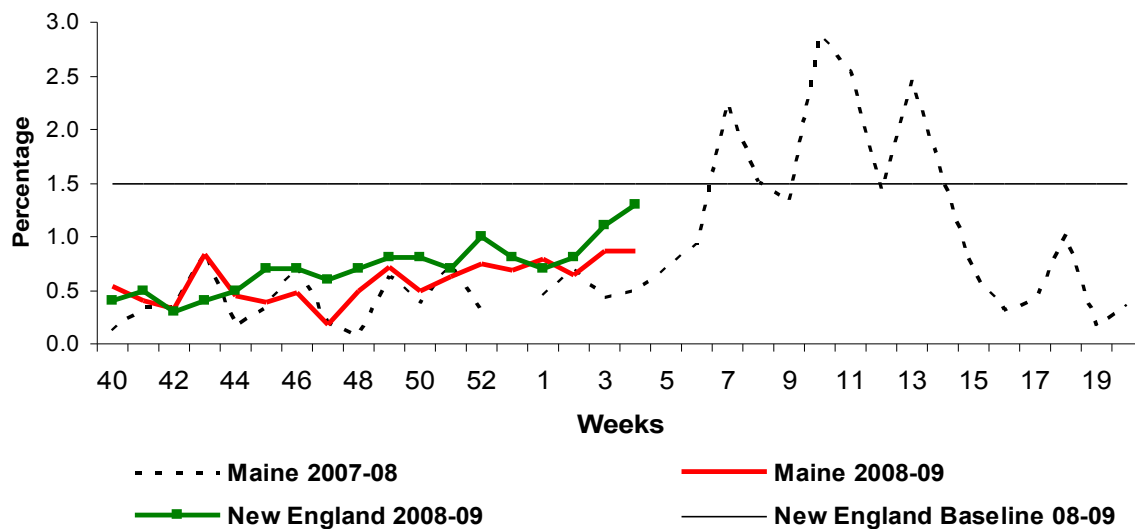
During the week ending January 31st, 2009 (MMWR week 4)*, Maine reported regional influenza activity. This week 20 cases of influenza were lab confirmed by culture or PCR. This included the first lab confirmed cases of influenza B. Eighteen cases were confirmed influenza A and two cases were confirmed influenza B. Influenza detected by rapid testing also increased this week, with 40 cases being reported. There were two new outbreaks of influenza-like illness during week 4, both in long term care facilities.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending January 31st, 2009, 0.9% of outpatient visits reported by ten Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}$ F / $\geq 37.8^{\circ}$ C) AND cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 1.3% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 4.

Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness – Maine, 2007-09



New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

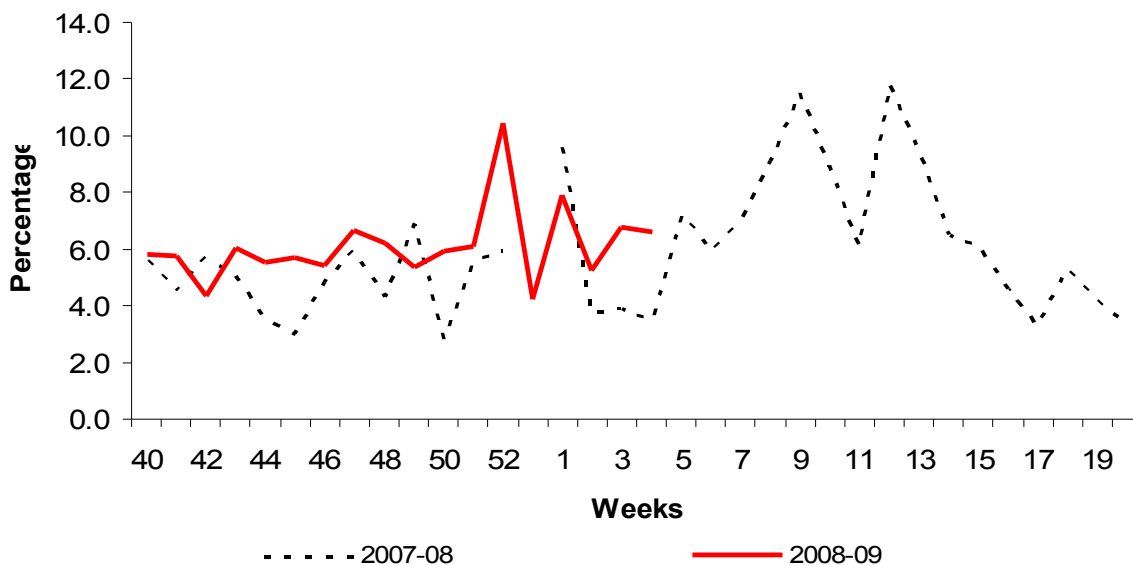
Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending January 31st, 2009, 6.6% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

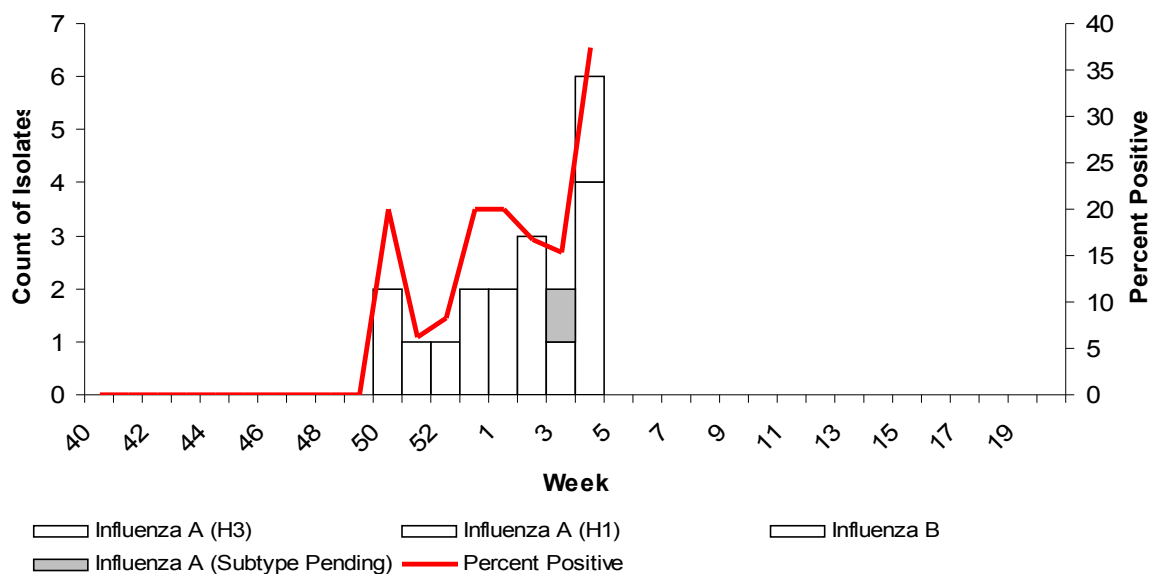
Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2007-09



Laboratory Reporting

During the week ending January 31st, 2009, 16 samples were submitted for testing to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). Six (37.5%) tested positive for influenza. Four were positive for influenza A, H1, and two were positive for influenza B. To date, 144 samples have been submitted, 19 (13.2%) were positive for influenza: 15 for influenza A H1, one for influenza A H3, one for influenza A unsubtype, and two for influenza B.

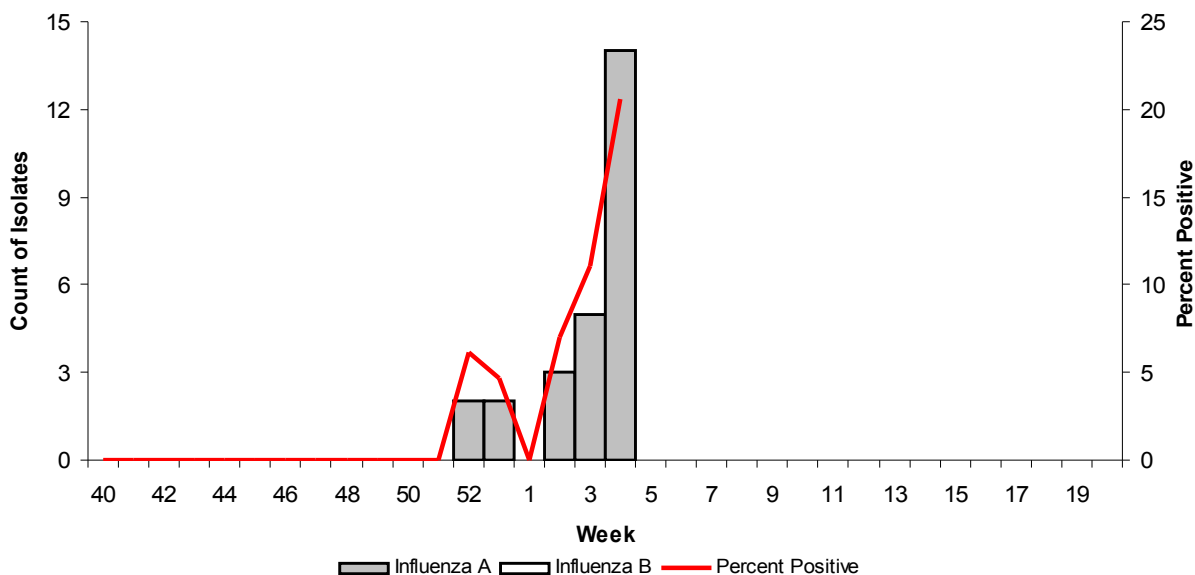
Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from HETL, Maine, 2008-2009



During the week ending January 31st, 2009, 68 samples were submitted for testing to two private reference laboratories, 14 (20.6%) tested positive for influenza A. Five samples were positive for RSV.

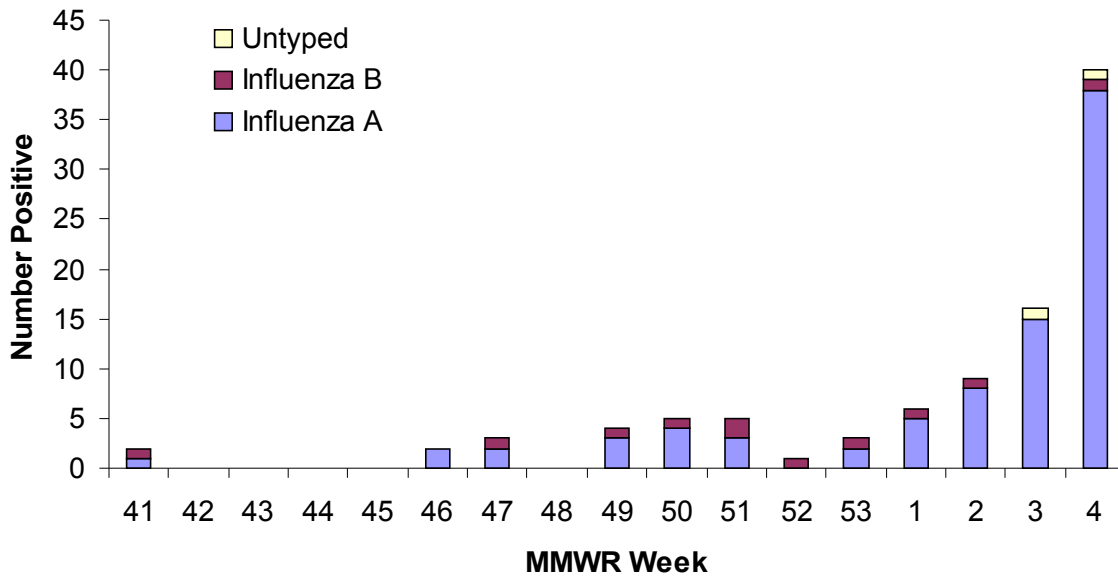
A combined total of 583 specimens have been submitted for respiratory testing to two private labs. To date, 26 samples were positive for influenza A, 31 samples were positive for RSV, ten samples were positive for parainfluenza 3, two samples were positive for adenovirus, and two samples were positive for enterovirus.

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from Two Reference Laboratories, Maine, 2008 - 2009



Rapid tests are often used in clinical practice and these results contribute to the determination of the state influenza activity code reported to the federal CDC. Many hospitals, laboratories, and physicians offices report these test results to the state. During the week ending January 31st, 2009, 40 samples tested positive using rapid testing, 38 for influenza A, 1 for influenza B, and one untyped sample. A combined total of 96 positive rapid tests have been reported this season. Eighty three were positive for influenza A, 11 were positive for influenza B, and two were not typed.

Positive Rapid Influenza Tests, Maine, 2008-2009



Outbreaks

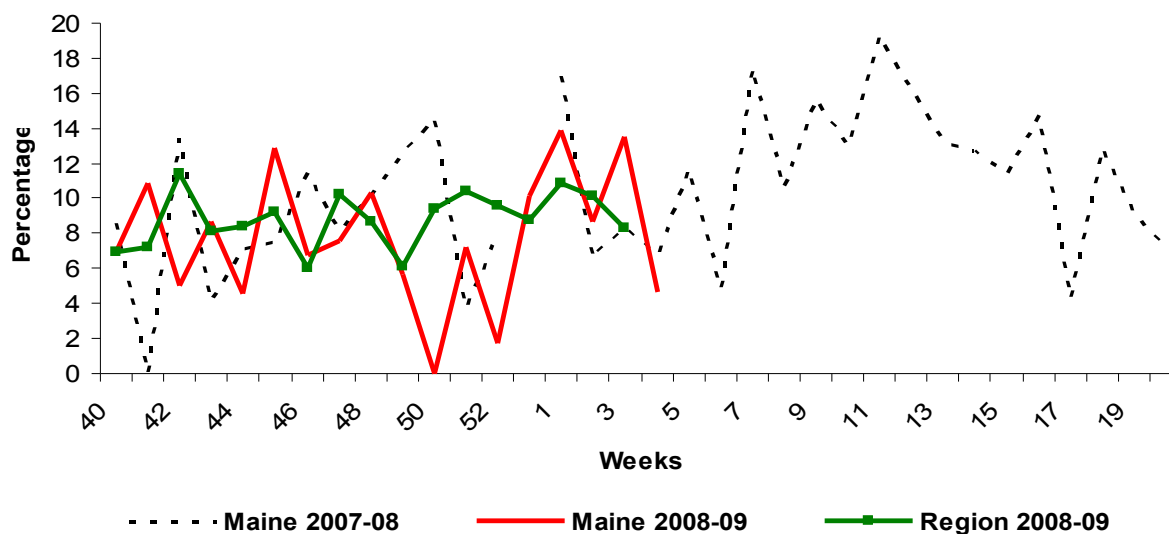
During the week ending January 31st, 2009, two outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in Maine. These outbreaks were both in long term care facilities, one in the Western region, and one in the Cumberland region. Both outbreaks were confirmed by rapid testing to be influenza A. To date, four outbreaks of influenza-like illness in long term care facilities have been reported.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending January 31st, 2009, 4.6% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2007-09



Pediatric Fatalities

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Maine have been reported this season.

National Influenza Activity

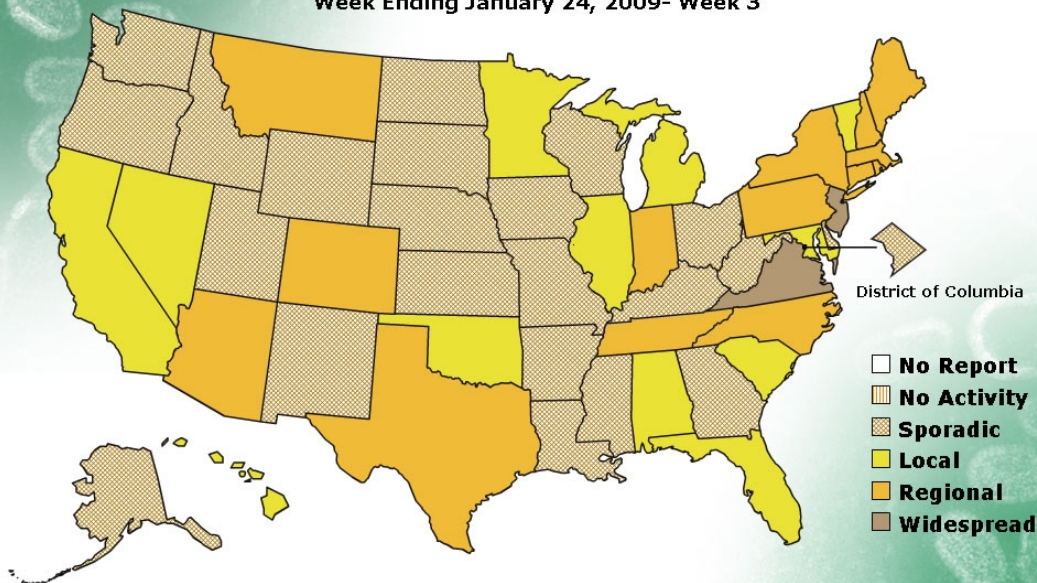
State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm). Maine reported regional activity for the week ending January 31st, 2009 (week 4).

FLUVIEW



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week Ending January 24, 2009- Week 3



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.